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SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

COUNTY OF NEW YORK

SEAN RAD, JONATHAN BADEEN,
PAUL CAFARDO, GARETH JOHNSON,
JAMES KIM, ALEXA MATEEN,
JUSTIN MATEEN, JOSHUA METZ,

RYAN OGLE, and ROSETTE PAMBAKIAN,

Plaintiffs,

- against -

IAC/INTERACTIVECORP and MATCH GROUP, INC.,

Defendants.

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Index No.

**COMPLAINT** 

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Plaintiffs Sean Rad, Jonathan Badeen, Paul Cafardo, Gareth Johnson, James Kim, Alexa Mateen, Justin Mateen, Joshua Metz, Ryan Ogle, and Rosette Pambakian (collectively, the "Tinder Plaintiffs"), by and through their attorneys, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, hereby allege as follows:

## **INTRODUCTION**

- 1. Tinder is one of the fastest-growing startups in the history of the technology industry. The Tinder Plaintiffs are the founders, current executives, and early employees who built Tinder. The defendants are Tinder's parent companies, IAC/InterActiveCorp ("IAC") and its subsidiary Match Group, Inc. ("Match," and collectively, "Defendants"). This case arises from Defendants' scheme to cheat the Tinder Plaintiffs out of billions of dollars by violating their contractual rights as optionholders.
- 2. From Tinder's founding in 2012, the Tinder Plaintiffs built the company into a global brand that transformed the way an entire generation makes new romantic connections. Led

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by co-founders and Plaintiffs Sean Rad, Justin Mateen, and Jonathan Badeen, the Tinder Plaintiffs and other Tinder optionholders worked tirelessly to develop, scale, and monetize the company—taking it from unknown startup to cultural icon in less than five years, and earning more than \$350 million in annual revenue by 2017.

- 3. Although owned by IAC and Match, Tinder always has operated from Los Angeles with its own offices, executive team, and employee base. Because of the hard work and talent of the Tinder Plaintiffs and their colleagues, Tinder has experienced meteoric global growth and has become one of the highest-grossing apps in the history of Apple's App Store. Last week, on August 8, 2018, Match announced in its latest earnings call that Tinder's explosive growth continues to this day, with 81% year-over-year growth in subscribers and 136% year-over-year growth in revenues. According to Match, Tinder is now on pace to exceed \$800 million in 2018 revenue. This success is the product of the hard work of the Tinder Plaintiffs and other Tinder optionholders, some of whom are still guiding the company to this day.
- 4. To compensate the team for creating and nurturing this kind of growth and success, in 2014 Defendants signed written contracts awarding the Tinder Plaintiffs—and many other current and former Tinder employees—stock options in Tinder (the "Agreements"). In total, the Tinder Plaintiffs owned options representing more than 20% of the value of Tinder.
- 5. The Agreements rewarded the Tinder Plaintiffs for their hard work and success by giving them skin in the game—the ability to hold and sell their options over sheveral years, as the value of the company increased. Founders and early employees of startup companies often receive equity in the companies they create, giving them an incentive to build the company's success long into the future. Founders of successful companies often hold their stakes for years as their companies continue to grow more valuable. The Agreements offered the same opportunity to the

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Tinder Plaintiffs, who received Tinder stock options with the right to hold them for years before

exercising.

6. Unlike stock options in a public company, which allow optionholders to exercise

and sell on the open market, the Tinder Plaintiffs' stock options called for a different plan. Because

Tinder is a private company, the contracts between Defendants and the Tinder Plaintiffs set a

schedule of four specific future dates on which the stock options would be independently valued

and could be exercised and sold only to Defendants. Those four events—referred to as

"Scheduled Puts" under the Agreements—were required to occur in or promptly after May 2017,

November 2018, May 2020, and May 2021.

7. Defendants had an illicit motive to undervalue and eliminate the Tinder Plaintiffs'

options. Under the Agreements, Defendants were responsible for paying the cost when the Tinder

Plaintiffs cashed in their options. The more valuable Tinder became, the more the Tinder

Plaintiffs' stock options would cost Defendants. As Tinder continued to become more valuable

over time, the long-term cost of those options would skyrocket. But if Defendants could

undermine Tinder's valuation at their first opportunity in 2017 and then eliminate the future

Scheduled Puts in 2018, 2020, and 2021, they could save themselves billions of dollars. Because

the Scheduled Puts occurred in private—beyond the view of public investors and regulators—

Defendants could lie about Tinder's financial projections and undermine the valuation of Tinder

without hurting their stock prices or the public perception of Tinder's value.

8. Through a pattern of deception, Defendants executed this scheme to systematically

deprive the Tinder Plaintiffs of their rights as optionholders. Defendants first conducted a

disinformation campaign—flooding the private valuation of Tinder in May 2017 with false,

misleading, and incomplete financial information and projections. By creating a false picture of

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Tinder's financial condition and prospects, Defendants arrived at a \$3 billion valuation based on

their bogus numbers. Then, having undermined the first scheduled valuation of Tinder,

Defendants moved to extinguish the Tinder Plaintiffs' rights to participate in the company's future

upside. Only hours after finalizing their \$3 billion valuation, Defendants merged Tinder out of

corporate existence—without the prior knowledge or consent of Tinder's Board of Directors or

any of the Tinder Plaintiffs. Through this pretextual merger, Defendants stripped away the Tinder

Plaintiffs' options in Tinder, cancelled the three remaining Scheduled Puts in 2018, 2020, and

2021, and purported to terminate the Agreements. Having guaranteed the Tinder Plaintiffs four

independent valuations and opportunities to ride Tinder's growth years into the future, Defendants

permanently deprived them of the money they had earned.

9. Under the Agreements, Tinder's management, not IAC or Match, was responsible

for providing the financial information that would determine Tinder's valuation. This reflected a

clear and common-sense alignment of interests: the valuation would decide how much money

Tinder optionholders would earn and enable the company to recruit employees and outside

investors. Tinder as a company, its optionholders, and Rad and the Tinder Plaintiffs shared the

same goal in the valuation process—to ensure that Tinder was valued accurately.

10. By the end of 2016, Rad had led Tinder to record heights. During Rad's tenure as

CEO, Tinder's revenue and profitability had grown faster than perhaps any other tech company in

history. Rad also had hired several skilled and experienced executives to strengthen Tinder's

management team. With the 2017 Scheduled Put approaching, the contractual plan was for Tinder

CEO Rad and the Tinder Plaintiffs to oversee the valuation on behalf of Tinder and enforce the

Agreements, which Rad had negotiated to protect all Tinder optionholders. Rad and the Tinder

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management team not only had the contractual right to oversee Tinder's valuation, they were in the best position to develop the financial information that would determine the valuation.

- 11. Defendants, on the other hand, were not concerned about protecting the best interests of Tinder or its optionholders during the valuation. Defendants were responsible for paying the bill when the Tinder Plaintiffs exercised their options. An accurate valuation, based on truthful information provided by CEO Rad and Tinder management, would cost Defendants billions.
- 12. In order to gut the Agreements and seize control of the valuation, Defendants installed their own executives at the highest levels of Tinder management. In December 2016, only months before the 2017 Scheduled Put, Defendants removed Rad and designated Greg Blatt, Match's Chairman and CEO, as the "interim" CEO of Tinder. Defendants also inserted Match's Chief Financial Officer and Chief Strategy Officer into Tinder's operations. The reason for these management changes was clear: to allow Defendants to control the valuation of Tinder and deprive Tinder optionholders of their right to participate in the company's future success.
- 13. Blatt, a longtime lackey of IAC's controlling shareholder Barry Diller, had served in numerous executive roles at IAC and Match throughout his career. He had a well-earned reputation as a notorious bully with a volcanic temper and a habit of threatening to fire employees who contradicted him. As "interim" CEO of Tinder, Blatt would control Tinder throughout the valuation process—all the while still acting as Match's Chairman and CEO. This was a glaring conflict of interest. As Tinder's "interim" CEO, Blatt had a duty to comply with the terms of the Agreements and advance the best interests of Tinder optionholders. But as Match's Chairman and CEO, Blatt had a professional and personal incentive to undervalue Tinder and cheat its optionholders so that Defendants could save money. Blatt was loyal only to Defendants.

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14. Having put Blatt in charge of carrying out their scheme, Defendants needed him to remain at the helm of Tinder long enough to finish the job. But Blatt was compromised: during and after Tinder's 2016 holiday party in Los Angeles, Blatt had groped and sexually harassed Plaintiff Rosette Pambakian, Tinder's Vice President of Marketing and Communications, with colleagues present. Blatt's workplace misconduct was reported to Defendants. Because a credible investigation—let alone a firing in public view—would have derailed their scheme, Defendants whitewashed Blatt's misconduct. Defendants kept Blatt in place as Tinder's "interim" CEO long enough to complete the private valuation and secret merger of Tinder. But just two weeks after their scheme concluded, Defendants publicly announced Blatt's "retirement"—rewarding him with a lucrative golden parachute and a glowing farewell message from Diller praising Blatt's "integrity."

15. Embedded within Tinder's ranks, Blatt and other IAC and Match executives executed Defendants' scheme. They created false financial projections, inflating Tinder's expenses and inventing an alternate universe in which Tinder was stagnating toward freefall. They delayed and concealed the impact new products and features, such as subscription service Tinder Gold, would have on the company's performance—even though existing data already confirmed those products would supercharge Tinder's profits. They suppressed and lied about the existence of true financial forecasts that contradicted Defendants' false projections. And they bullied and threatened to fire Tinder executives—including Plaintiff James Kim, Tinder's current Vice President of Finance—to stop them from telling the truth. On this basis, Defendants manufactured a \$3 billion valuation of Tinder that dramatically undervalued the company.

16. Defendants were not content only to manufacture a sham valuation of Tinder and cheat the Tinder Plaintiffs in the short term. On July 13, 2017, the very same day Defendants

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completed the valuation, they merged Tinder into Match—secretly and without any notice to

Tinder optionholders. This merger was a pretext. It caused no meaningful change in Tinder's

operating structure, assets, or integration into Defendants' other businesses. It had no legitimate

business justification or real-world consequence. The merger was orchestrated to deprive the

Tinder Plaintiffs and other optionholders of their right to participate in the future upside of Tinder.

17. Acting under cover of the secret merger, Defendants immediately converted all

Tinder stock options into Match options at the lowball \$3 billion valuation. This meant that the

Tinder Plaintiffs received far fewer Match options, and a far less valuable stock option, than they

had been promised. Defendants then purported to terminate the Agreements and eliminate the

future scheduled valuations in 2018, 2020, and 2021. Defendants' sham merger and conversion

permanently deprived the Tinder Plaintiffs of the long-term value they had earned.

18. Defendants executed their dishonest scheme in private, behind closed doors and

outside the view of the public markets and regulators. At the same time, as publicly traded and

regulated companies, Defendants made representations to investors, analysts, and regulators—on

SEC-regulated earnings calls and in public filings—about Tinder and their other businesses. As

with any public disclosure about financial performance, federal and state securities laws require

that everything said on an earnings call by a company and its executives must be truthful, accurate,

and not misleading.

19. Because the valuation and merger of Tinder occurred in private, Defendants could

enrich themselves by talking out of both sides of their mouths. In secret, Defendants peddled false

projections and orchestrated a sham merger to cheat the Tinder Plaintiffs out of billions of

dollars. As a private company, Tinder did not itself publicly report financial

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information. Defendants created a \$3 billion valuation of Tinder based on bogus doom-and-gloom numbers they manufactured for a private process.

- 20. Meanwhile, in public, Defendants could boost their stock prices by extolling Tinder's explosive growth and long-term profitability. Since the valuation and merger, Defendants have made numerous public statements about Tinder—many during SEC-regulated earnings calls—that celebrate Tinder's financial performance and directly contradict their private misrepresentations during the valuation.
- 21. For example, throughout the private valuation, Defendants trivialized Tinder Gold's anticipated impact, providing depressed projections about an explosive new subscription product that Defendants knew would catalyze Tinder's profits. But during Match's August 2017 earnings call—only weeks after the valuation concluded—Blatt told investors that Match expected Tinder Gold to be "the single biggest driver of incremental monetization that [Tinder had] launched since the beginning." The market recognized the true value of Tinder Gold immediately after it launched in late August 2017—within one week, Match's market capitalization increased by approximately one billion dollars, or more than 18%.
- 22. Defendants also claimed during the private valuation in 2017 that Tinder's revenue growth rate would collapse by more than 90% over the next five years. But during Match's August 2017 earnings call—again, only weeks after Defendants finalized their valuation—Defendants sang the opposite tune: they acknowledged that Tinder would see "meaningful expansion and . . . reacceleration" of its growth rate and continue to be "the major driver of Match Group revenue growth for certainly several years."
- 23. Defendants are now telling the truth about Tinder publicly for the same reason they lied about Tinder privately—to enrich themselves. But Defendants have never disclosed to

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investors or to regulators the true multibillion-dollar price tag of all Tinder options or that Defendants faced billions of dollars in liability resulting from their scheme.

- 24. Tinder's financial performance since July 2017 further confirms, with objective precision, the illegitimacy of Defendants' false financial projections and resulting lowball valuation. During the valuation in 2017, Defendants said that Tinder would earn \$454 million in 2018 revenue. Last week, in its August 8, 2018 earnings call, Match announced that "Tinder is on pace to exceed \$800 million in revenue in 2018"—more than 75% higher than Defendants projected for 2018 revenue and more than 33% higher than Defendants projected even for 2021 revenue. Defendants also disclosed that Tinder Gold's success had "reset" Tinder's metrics, generating "very sustained lifts" in key Tinder performance measures. Defendants told investors they were "confident" that Tinder's profit margins, already "strong," will "continue to expand," making the company even more profitable for years in the future.
- 25. Defendants' admissions of Tinder's continued explosive growth and financial success confirm that their valuation projections in 2017 were a farce. Having successfully executed their scheme, Defendants are now telling the truth about Tinder's financial performance and prospects—exposing the lies at the heart of their financial manipulations in 2017.
- 26. The Tinder Plaintiffs founded and built Tinder into the company it is today. They include several of Tinder's current senior executives: its Chief Strategy Officer, Vice President of Finance, and Vice President of Marketing and Communications. Standing alongside the company's founders and early employees, those senior members of Tinder's current leadership are now speaking out against IAC and Match's systematic deprivation of their rights—a scheme that has harmed not only the Tinder Plaintiffs but scores of other current and former Tinder employees who also held Tinder options.

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27. Defendants cheated the Tinder Plaintiffs out of their contractual right to participate in the future growth of the company they built. Defendants willfully breached their contracts and their legal duties, pocketing billions of dollars earned by the Tinder Plaintiffs and other Tinder optionholders. The Tinder Plaintiffs bring this action to right that wrong and to reclaim the dignity, credit, and money Defendants stole from them.

### THE PARTIES

- 28. Sean Rad ("**Rad**") is an individual who resides in Los Angeles, California. Rad is a co-founder of Tinder. At various times from approximately February 2012 to September 2017, Rad served as the CEO of Tinder.
- 29. Jonathan Badeen ("**Badeen**") is an individual who resides in Los Angeles, California. Badeen is a co-founder of Tinder. Badeen has served in multiple roles at Tinder since 2012, including today as Chief Strategy Officer. He also was the former Senior Vice President of Product and the former Vice President of Engineering.
- 30. Paul Cafardo ("Cafardo") is an individual who resides in Los Angeles, California. Cafardo served as an engineer at Tinder from April 2013 to June 2017, including as Director of Engineering from January 2016 to June 2017.
- 31. Gareth Johnson ("**Johnson**") is an individual who resides in Los Angeles, California. Johnson served as Lead Designer at Tinder from February 2014 to June 2017.
- 32. James Kim ("**Kim**") is an individual who resides in Los Angeles, California. Kim has served as Tinder's Vice President of Finance since February 2016.
- 33. Alexa Mateen ("Alexa Mateen") is an individual who resides in Los Angeles, California. Alexa Mateen joined Tinder in May 2012 and served in a variety of roles until May 2015, including as Tinder's Head of U.S. Expansion.

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34. Justin Mateen ("**Mateen**") is an individual who resides in Las Vegas, Nevada. Mateen is a co-founder of Tinder. From approximately February 2012 to September 2014, Mateen served as the Chief Marketing Officer of Tinder. From September 2014 until 2017, he served as an advisor to Tinder.

- 35. Joshua Metz ("Metz") is an individual who resides in Los Angeles, California. Metz joined Tinder in June 2013 as Tinder's Marketing Manager and has served as Director of Marketing since July 2014.
- 36. Ryan Ogle ("**Ogle**") is an individual who resides in Los Angeles, California. Ogle served as Tinder's Chief Technology Officer from August 2012 to June 2017.
- 37. Rosette Pambakian ("**Pambakian**") is an individual who resides in Los Angeles, California. Pambakian began leading Tinder's communications efforts in 2012. Pambakian joined Tinder full-time in March 2014 and today serves as Tinder's Vice President of Marketing and Communications.
- 38. As of July 2017, all of the Tinder Plaintiffs owned and were permitted to exercise Tinder stock options.
- 39. IAC/InterActiveCorp ("IAC") is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in New York, New York. IAC is a media and Internet conglomerate controlled by its Chairman and Senior Executive, Barry Diller. On information and belief, IAC owns or controls over 150 brands, including Dictionary.com, The Daily Beast, Vimeo, Investopedia, and Ask.com. IAC also has spun off a number of its former assets into separate corporate entities, including Match Group, Inc.
- 40. Match Group, Inc. ("Match," and together with IAC, "Defendants") is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Dallas, Texas. On information and belief, Match

owns several online dating brands, including Match.com and OkCupid. Before Match became a public company on November 19, 2015, it was a wholly owned subsidiary of IAC. Since November 19, 2015, IAC has owned a majority of Match's outstanding shares.

41. Tinder, Inc. ("Tinder" or the "Company") was a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Los Angeles, California. From March 11, 2013, to July 13, 2017, Tinder was a Delaware corporation owned by Match. On July 13, 2017, Match merged Tinder into itself. On information and belief, Tinder currently operates in Los Angeles, California as a brand within Match. On information and belief, upon the merger, Match assumed all of Tinder's liabilities and obligations, including those arising from the agreements that underlie the Tinder Plaintiffs' claims in this action.

#### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 42. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction of this dispute pursuant to Article VI, Section 7 of the New York Constitution.
- 43. This Court has personal jurisdiction over IAC pursuant to N.Y. C.P.L.R. § 301 because IAC's principal place of business is New York.
- 44. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Match pursuant to N.Y. C.P.L.R. §§ 301, 302(a)(1), and 302(a)(2).
  - a. Match is subject to general jurisdiction pursuant to N.Y. C.P.L.R. § 301 because Match is registered to do business in New York with the New York Department of State and has consented to personal jurisdiction in New York.
  - b. Match is subject to general jurisdiction pursuant to N.Y. C.P.L.R. § 301 based on its status as a subsidiary of IAC. On information and belief, Match

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operates as a mere department of IAC, which exerts pervasive control over Match's operations, including the selection and assignment of Match's personnel and Match's marketing and operational policies. On information

and belief, Match shares corporate resources with IAC in New York. On

information and belief, IAC also acted as Match's agent in New York to

further Match's interests in negotiating and enforcing agreements that are

relevant to this dispute.

c. Match is subject to specific jurisdiction pursuant to N.Y. C.P.L.R. § 302(a)(1). On information and belief, Match and Tinder (before it was

merged into Match) negotiated in New York the agreements that underlie

the Tinder Plaintiffs' claims in this action.

d. Match is subject to specific jurisdiction pursuant to N.Y. C.P.L.R.

§ 302(a)(2). On information and belief, Match and Tinder (before it was

merged into Match) committed tortious acts in New York that give rise to

certain of the Tinder Plaintiffs' claims in this action.

i. On information and belief, Greg Blatt, Match's Chairman and CEO

and Tinder's "interim" CEO during the events giving rise to this

lawsuit, principally lived in New York, worked out of the IAC office

in New York, and was physically located in New York during the

period in which, as an agent of Match and IAC, he had

communications and made decisions that inflicted harm on the

Tinder Plaintiffs. Among other things, while working and living in

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New York, Blatt made decisions and participated in calls and email exchanges with respect to the events giving rise to this lawsuit.

- ii. On information and belief, Gary Swidler, Match's Chief Financial Officer during the events giving rise to this lawsuit, principally lived in New York, worked out of the IAC office in New York, and was physically located in New York during the period in which, as an agent of Match and IAC, he had communications and made decisions that inflicted harm on the Tinder Plaintiffs. Among other things, while working and living in New York, Swidler made decisions and participated in calls and email exchanges with respect to the events giving rise to this lawsuit.
- 45. Venue is proper in New York County pursuant to N.Y. C.P.L.R. § 503(a) and (c) because IAC's principal place of business is New York County and because IAC is registered to do business in New York County with the New York Department of State.

### FACTUAL BACKGROUND

### I. Rad Invents Tinder

- 46. In late 2011, Sean Rad—already an accomplished entrepreneur with two successful startups under his belt—invented the concept for Tinder: a location-based, social networking app that would connect mutually interested users.
- 47. Rad's inspiration for this app came from his own life experience. As a shy twenty-something, Rad struggled to make initial connections with women. He realized that the biggest obstacle he and millions of others faced was the fear of rejection.

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48. This problem crystalized for Rad one night at a restaurant with his friends. The restaurant was full of young people all potentially interested in forming new connections, but his friends were focused on their phones instead of interacting with others in the room.

49. Rad designed a solution: a smartphone app that would let users express interest in individuals near their physical location. Rad also understood that a mobile app-based platform would take advantage of the trend to mobile devices—unlike legacy dating platforms like Match.com that remained web-based and failed to adapt their clunky interfaces for new users. And only when two users expressed interest in each other could they start chatting within the app. Rad believed that this "double opt-in" system would significantly reduce the barriers to new connections by eliminating the fear of rejection. Rad's central insights went on to revolutionize the online dating industry.

50. Rad and Justin Mateen, another Los Angeles entrepreneur with successful startups to his credit, began discussing potential endeavors around this time as well. Among other concepts, they discussed Rad's idea for what would become Tinder.

## II. The Tinder Plaintiffs Begin To Build Tinder

- 51. Rad was recruited to join Hatch Labs in or around February 2012. Hatch Labs was a startup incubator—a term for a company that provides resources and support services to early-stage enterprises. Hatch Labs had formally launched in March 2011 as a joint venture between IAC and Xtreme Labs, a mobile strategy and product development company. IAC was the majority owner of Hatch Labs, and Xtreme Labs owned a minority stake.
- 52. Days after joining Hatch Labs in February 2012, Rad participated in a "hackathon," or "HATCHathon," hosted by the incubator—a short-term intense design event in which participants collaborate to develop the best new software product. Rad competed in the hackathon with Joe Muñoz, another Hatch Labs employee. Rad used the event to develop his dating app idea,

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building a presentation for what was originally called "MatchBox" and eventually became known

throughout the world as Tinder. Rad's presentation included the core designs and functionality of

the app, which remain the centerpiece of the Tinder experience today, as well as descriptions of

what would become some of Tinder's main revenue streams. Muñoz explored various location-

based technologies for the app.

53. Rad's MatchBox concept won the hackathon. But once the hackathon ended, Rad

returned to his "day job" at Hatch Labs building Cardify, a different app focused on loyalty card

programs for retail businesses. The Cardify team grew as Rad recruited colleagues to join his

project, including Jonathan Badeen, Joe Muñoz, and Chris Gulczynski. Together, they spent

several months building Cardify. Rad and Badeen also recruited Ryan Ogle and Chris Lim to work

on another Hatch Labs product. Gulczynski, Ogle, and Lim would each go on to play key roles in

the early stages and growth of Tinder.

54. Rad also suggested creating a new Hatch Labs initiative to incubate MatchBox.

Hatch Labs management told Rad the incubator would not fund any additional startups at that time.

Rad proposed that he would partner with Mateen and together they would finance the development

of MatchBox, outside of Hatch Labs. Hatch Labs also did not want Rad to pursue the MatchBox

project independently. Instead, Hatch Labs suggested that Rad work on MatchBox using the

existing Cardify team, leveraging their free time without additional funding.

55. Because MatchBox was Rad's idea and would be built on the side with few Hatch

Labs resources, Rad proposed founder-friendly ownership terms for MatchBox: the founding team

would own a substantial majority of MatchBox, with Hatch Labs as a minority owner or investor.

IAC and Hatch Labs agreed to this proposal.

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III. The Tinder Plaintiffs Launch Tinder And IAC Deprives Them Of Their Promised Ownership

56. Rad asked Mateen to partner with him and to spearhead innovative marketing and

growth strategies for the app. Rad asked Badeen to partner with him in developing the app. And

he asked Muñoz and Gulczynski to dedicate their free time to building the app. Badeen and

Gulczynski worked on brand and app graphical design. Badeen was responsible for programming

the original app for iPhone. He remains with the company today as its Chief Strategy Officer.

57. In or around July 2012, Hatch Labs told Rad that he would have to rename

MatchBox before submitting it to Apple's App Store—IAC would not permit another dating

company to have a name similar to its legacy dating brand, Match.com. MatchBox was renamed

Tinder, and the team submitted the app to Apple's App Store in August 2012. Tinder was officially

released for iPhone users in September 2012 and for Android users in July 2013.

58. Mateen partnered with Rad to launch Tinder and worked tirelessly to promote it.

He targeted college campuses and developed an international network of celebrities and social

media "influencers" to promote the app throughout the world. Almost immediately, the Tinder

team realized it had created something viral and potentially explosive. Tinder downloads soared

and user engagement was off-the-charts.

59. The Tinder team continued to expand in order to scale the rapidly growing

company. The team recruited Alexa Mateen and Whitney Wolfe, both then working at Cardify,

to help define the company's grassroots strategy to reach millennials, including by recruiting

"student ambassadors" to promote the app on college campuses. The team also recruited Gareth

Johnson, who helped shape Tinder's marketing design. Rosette Pambakian, then an established

communications professional at a prominent public relations agency, joined forces to build and

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scale Tinder's global communications and brand strategy. And Joshua Metz came on-board to jumpstart Tinder's international expansion.

60. To keep pace with Tinder's unprecedented growth, the team also recruited new engineers, including Ryan Ogle to lead the engineering team as Chief Technology Officer and rebuild Tinder's code from scratch. Ogle worked sleepless nights to rebuild Tinder's back-end technology. Badeen invented and built Tinder's iconic "swipe" feature. He also collaborated with Ogle and others on rewriting the Tinder iPhone app.

- 61. Around the end of 2012, the Tinder Plaintiffs learned that IAC planned to shutter Hatch Labs and no longer wanted to incubate companies—an approach IAC Chairman and Senior Executive Barry Diller recently described as inherently a "crapshoot[]." Tinder would need to raise outside capital to keep Tinder alive.
- 62. Rad and Mateen's established relationships and credibility in the tech community and Tinder's potential enabled them to raise multimillion-dollar investment offers from a number of prominent technology venture capitalists. They executed this successful fundraising effort while they and the rest of the Tinder team continued working around the clock, with few resources, to keep pace with the growing demands of Tinder.
- 63. After watching Tinder continue to skyrocket and prominent outside investors express interest in buying the company, IAC reneged on the founder-friendly deal to which it had agreed and insisted that Hatch Labs owned all of Tinder's equity. The Tinder team received no equity in Tinder, Inc. when it was formally incorporated in March 2013. Instead, they received only dilutable "stock appreciation rights" representing a fraction of the value IAC had promised. Defendants would come to own all of the equity of Tinder, Inc.

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IV. As Tinder Skyrockets, IAC Secures Its Ownership Through Deception

64. Following Tinder's successful launch, the Tinder Plaintiffs and their colleagues

worked tirelessly to build and scale the company's product, organization, and revenue streams to

what they are today.

65. Rad and Jonathan Badeen, Tinder's current Chief Strategy Officer, oversaw

Tinder's product and design team, which went on to ideate and create all of Tinder's current

products and revenue features—from the iconic "swipe" to many of Tinder's key revenue features.

Justin Mateen scaled Tinder's user base from scratch, both domestically and internationally, by

developing innovative marketing and product monetization strategies that redefined how

companies connect with millennials worldwide. Ryan Ogle built and led Tinder's engineering

team and architected the infrastructure required to scale to tens of millions of users. As the leader

of Tinder's global communications group and now Vice President of Marketing and

Communications, Rosette Pambakian forged Tinder's unique identity and communications

infrastructure from the ground up. Joshua Metz, Tinder's current Director of Marketing, catalyzed

Tinder's global growth. Alexa Mateen helped define the company's grassroots strategies. Paul

Cafardo oversaw the development of Tinder's Android app, helping Tinder expand to a huge pool

of new Android users. Gareth Johnson helped develop and construct Tinder's marketing design.

And James Kim, Tinder's current Vice President of Finance, set in place the financial systems and

controls that enabled the team and investors to gain clear knowledge of the company's financial

performance.

66. Tinder's founders and early employees formed a close and passionate community

of colleagues and friends. They knew they were working together on a once-in-a-lifetime

opportunity and supported each other while building an explosive tech company from scratch.

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67. The Tinder Plaintiffs' dedication and hard work propelled Tinder to enormous

success. By March 2014, Tinder had over 15 million total registered users, with more than four

million daily active users. Each day, Tinder users collectively swiped on over 600 million profiles,

with each user spending enough time engaged to swipe, on average, approximately 150 profiles.

68. As Tinder continued to grow, IAC set about securing total ownership of Tinder by

buying out Xtreme Labs' minority stake in Hatch Labs. Again, IAC resorted to deception. On

information and belief, IAC misled Xtreme Labs about Tinder's true value during a private

valuation to determine the worth of Xtreme Labs' minority stake, restricting Xtreme Labs' access

to information and feeding it inaccurate data. On information and belief, IAC misled Xtreme Labs

into valuing Tinder at only \$500 million—half of what existing evidence showed it was already

worth—and acquired complete ownership of Tinder at a significant discount.

V. The Tinder Plaintiffs Obtain Written Contracts To Protect Tinder Optionholders

69. After Defendants had secured complete ownership of Tinder by deceiving the

founding team and Xtreme Labs, Rad and Mateen realized they needed to renegotiate their

agreements with Defendants to obtain specific protections for the Tinder team.

70. Conventionally, a startup employee may receive some number of stock options in

a company when he or she joins. Those options vest over time—as the employee remains at the

company, he or she gains control over an increasingly large portion of his or her options. Once

those options vest, employees have the right to exercise them; unvested options, by contrast, cannot

be exercised. This arrangement, standard in startups, means that employees take a risk on the

companies they join. They earn lower salaries than may otherwise be available. But if they work

long enough for their options to vest and the company succeeds, their options can become very

valuable.

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71. For public companies, the process of valuing stock options is straightforward. Employees typically receive stock options granting them the right to buy a share of the company's stock at a certain strike price. When employees have worked long enough for their options to vest, they have the right to exercise them at their discretion, meaning they buy the stock at the option's strike price and then sell it at the current market price on a public stock exchange, receiving the difference as profit. For a private company like Tinder, however, there is no public market for employees to buy and sell shares. Privately held startups must therefore use a different process to set a fair valuation on the company as a whole, so that options can be valued and exercised.

- 72. The existing agreements governing Tinder "stock appreciation rights"—which IAC had imposed on the Tinder Plaintiffs in 2013 when it held all the cards—lacked critical safeguards for the employees. Rad and Mateen set out to negotiate new agreements that would better protect Tinder employees and hired respected Silicon Valley attorney Larry Sonsini, a founder of the law firm Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati ("WSGR"), to negotiate with Defendants.
- 73. IAC and Match executives expressed anger when they learned Rad and Mateen had hired WSGR to renegotiate their contracts and to solidify and strengthen the rights of the Tinder team. On one occasion, Greg Blatt, then Chairman of Match who led the business negotiations for Defendants, erupted at Rad, screaming profanely, in sum and substance, "Why the fuck did you get Larry Sonsini involved?"
- 74. Blatt was a close advisor to IAC Chairman and controlling shareholder Barry Diller and has served Diller in various senior leadership roles within IAC since 2003—including as CEO of IAC from 2010 to 2013, Chairman of Match from 2013 to 2017, and CEO of Match from 2015 to 2017. On information and belief, Blatt's personal financial interests were aligned with IAC and

Match based on his ownership of significant IAC and/or Match equity and/or stock options. Blatt also had a reputation for bullying and intimidation.

- 75. Other executives at IAC, including Gregg Winiarski, IAC's General Counsel, participated in the 2014 contract negotiations. Winiarski had served as an in-house attorney for IAC since 2005 and as IAC's General Counsel since 2009.
- 76. After negotiating for six months, Rad and Mateen obtained valuable contractual protections for the Tinder Plaintiffs and other Tinder optionholders. The new contracts granted Tinder employees traditional stock options—the industry standard for employee equity and far easier for prospective employees to understand—instead of "stock appreciation rights," and they protected those options against dilution by Defendants. The contracts set a schedule of specific future dates when Tinder employees could exercise their options in 2017, 2018, 2020, and 2021. And they instituted an independent process for valuing Tinder on each of those specific dates. Tinder employees could choose to exercise their options on any of those dates based on the price determined through the valuation process—or, if they believed that Tinder would continue to become more valuable, Tinder employees could hold their options until the next opportunity.

# VI. The 2014 Agreements: Contractual Rights And Protections For All Tinder Optionholders

- 77. Four primary agreements (the "**Agreements**") set forth the new deal Rad and Mateen negotiated to protect Tinder optionholders: (1) the Tinder, Inc. Restated 2014 Equity Incentive Plan; (2) the Tinder, Inc. 2014 Equity Settlement Plan; (3) a Funding and Governance Agreement between Tinder, IAC, and Rad; and for each of the Tinder Plaintiffs, (4) a Tinder, Inc. Restated 2014 Equity Incentive Plan Restated Stock Option Agreement.
- 78. The <u>Tinder, Inc. Restated 2014 Equity Incentive Plan</u>, adopted by Tinder on July 28, 2014 (the "**2014 Equity Incentive Plan**"), permitted the company to, among other things,

grant "Nonstatutory Stock Options, Stock Appreciation Rights, Restricted Stock and Restricted Stock Units" for the purposes of "attract[ing] and retain[ing] the best available personnel for positions of substantial responsibility"; "provid[ing] additional incentive[s] to Employees, Directors and Consultants"; and "promot[ing] the success of the Company's business."

- 79. The <u>Tinder, Inc. 2014 Equity Settlement Plan</u>, adopted by Tinder and IAC as of July 28, 2014 and amended as of October 15, 2014 (the "**Settlement Plan**"), provided two different types of opportunities for Tinder optionholders to exercise their vested options.
  - a. On specific dates, termed "Scheduled Puts," Tinder would be required to undergo an independent valuation, and optionholders would have the right to exercise their options at the price determined through that process. The Scheduled Puts were required to occur "[o]n or promptly following" May 15, 2017, November 15, 2018, May 15, 2020, and May 15, 2021.
  - b. Tinder would also have the authority to grant additional, unscheduled opportunities for optionholders to exercise their vested options, termed "Discretionary Puts."
  - c. During any exercise event, whether a Scheduled Put or a Discretionary Put,

    Tinder was required to "deliver to all Plan Beneficiaries eligible to
    participate in the Qualifying Put written notice of the Put Price and
    supporting calculation(s) (the 'Put Price Notice')." The Put Price Notice
    was required to "include instructions for exercising any vested Options that
    such holders may choose to exercise."
  - d. Tinder was also required to provide vested optionholders with a "Put

    Exercise Window" of at least 10 days' duration when they could exercise

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their options by delivering a "**Put Exercise Notice**" to Tinder which served as written notice of the decision to exercise.

- e. No more than 10 days following receipt of a Put Exercise Notice, Tinder was required to pay an exercising optionholder an amount equal to the "Option Spread" of the exercised options, less applicable tax withholding; "Option Spread" was defined as "an amount equal to (x) the excess, if any, of the applicable Put Price over the exercise price of such Option multiplied by (y) the number of Shares underlying such Option."
- f. The Option Spread was payable in freely tradable shares of Match or IAC.
- 80. The Settlement Plan also mandated two alternative outcomes in the event that IAC or any of its affiliates merged with or acquired Tinder (an "IAC Acquisition").
  - a. If such an IAC Acquisition caused a "meaningful change" in the assets owned or controlled by Tinder "or its successor" or in "the operating structure or integration of the [Tinder] business into any of IAC's other businesses," then Tinder was required to institute a Discretionary Put in which Tinder optionholders could exercise their options if they chose. The Settlement Plan further provided that "[a]ll outstanding Options that are not exercised in such Discretionary Put (if such Discretionary Put is consummated prior to the IAC Acquisition) shall be converted into options in the successor entity, as permitted by and pursuant to the terms of the Stock Option Plan and the Stock Option Agreement applicable to such Options."

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- b. Alternatively, "notwithstanding the foregoing," the Settlement Plan provided that if such an IAC Acquisition did not cause "any meaningful change" in the assets owned or controlled by Tinder "or its successor" or in "the operating structure or integration of the [Tinder] business into any of IAC's other businesses," then "no Discretionary Put shall be triggered and these arrangements shall remain unchanged."
- 81. The Settlement Plan provided that it would terminate only in the event of "a Public Offering" of Tinder or at "such time as IAC, together with its affiliates, owns less than a majority of the outstanding equity of" Tinder.
- 82. Schedule A to the Settlement Plan described the valuation process—the "Qualifying Valuation Process"—by which Tinder would be valued in a Scheduled Put or a Discretionary Put.
  - a. The Qualifying Valuation Process required Tinder, not Match or IAC, to retain two banks to provide their "independent" determinations of Tinder's "Public Company Trading Price," or the "best estimate of the price at which a Share would trade if the Shares were then trading in the United States on a major exchange, treating the Company as widely traded with a significant public float."
  - b. Tinder, not Match or IAC, was required to provide access to diligence information and its management to discuss Tinder's business and prospects, as well as in-person opportunities for management to present its perspectives.

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83. The <u>Funding and Governance Agreement</u>, entered into by and among Rad, Tinder, and IAC as of July 28, 2014 ("Rad's Funding and Governance Agreement"), provided, among other things, that Rad would receive: unaudited balance sheets and statements of income and cash flows for Tinder at the end of each fiscal quarter and fiscal year; "all determinations of the Public Company Trading Price . . . following any such determination"; and "copies of all Put Price Notices."

- 84. Rad entered into a new stock option agreement, the <u>Tinder, Inc. Restated 2014</u>

  <u>Equity Incentive Plan Restated Stock Option Agreement</u>, by and among Rad, Tinder, and IAC as of July 28, 2014 ("**Rad's Option Agreement**") to govern his Tinder stock options. Rad's Option Agreement set forth certain specific provisions of Rad's equity deal:
  - a. Rad was an "express third party beneficiary" of the Settlement Plan.
  - b. Matters relating to the exercise, transfer, and settlement of Rad's Tinder options "shall be controlled by the Settlement Plan," "for so long as the Settlement Plan is in effect pursuant to its terms."
  - c. With respect to the Qualifying Valuation Process set forth in Schedule A of the Settlement Plan, Rad "shall have the same rights as IAC." In addition, Tinder shall provide Rad with equivalent diligence information and reasonable access to company management.
  - d. "[I]n connection with an IAC Acquisition [Rad's] Options shall be treated as contemplated in the Settlement Plan."
- 85. Each of the other Tinder Plaintiffs—Jonathan Badeen, Paul Cafardo, Gareth Johnson, James Kim, Alexa Mateen, Justin Mateen, Joshua Metz, Ryan Ogle, and Rosette Pambakian—entered into one or more stock option agreements, by and among each Tinder

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Plaintiff, Tinder, and IAC (for each Tinder Plaintiff, an "Option Agreement," and together with Rad's Option Agreement, the "Tinder Plaintiffs' Option Agreements") to govern each Tinder Plaintiff's Tinder stock options. Those agreements were substantially identical in relevant part. In particular:

- a. Each Tinder Plaintiff was an "express third party beneficiary" of the Settlement Plan.
- b. Matters relating to the exercise, transfer, and settlement of each Tinder Plaintiff's Tinder options "shall be controlled by the Settlement Plan," "for so long as the Settlement Plan is in effect pursuant to its terms."
- c. "[I]n connection with an IAC Acquisition [each Tinder Plaintiff's] Options shall be treated as contemplated in the Settlement Plan."

## VII. <u>Defendants Gain Additional Control Of Tinder</u>

- 86. In the midst of negotiating these new contractual terms to protect all Tinder employees, Whitney Wolfe filed a complaint against Tinder, Match, and IAC in the Superior Court of California for Los Angeles County, alleging that she had been subjected to sexual harassment, discrimination, and retaliation at Tinder.
- 87. Wolfe previously had served as Tinder's Vice President of Marketing before she left Tinder in early 2014. Wolfe and Mateen previously had been in a long-term, public romantic relationship, including when Tinder was founded and while they both worked at Tinder.
- 88. Before filing, Wolfe made her employment allegations privately to Match and IAC. Defendants suspended Mateen at that time and directed him not to comment or respond.
- 89. Defendants responded to the lawsuit by threatening that if Mateen did not agree to resign immediately and forfeit options, IAC would fire Rad, even though IAC did not suggest Rad

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had done anything wrong. Mateen knew that Rad's leadership was essential to Tinder's continued success. He agreed to resign and reluctantly gave up half of his Tinder options to Defendants.

90. In September 2014, Defendants settled Wolfe's lawsuit against Tinder, Match, and IAC, without any admission of wrongdoing.

# VIII. <u>Defendants Demote Rad—And Then Reinstate Him As CEO Five Months Later</u>

- 91. By November 2014, Tinder had more than 40 million registered users and almost 7 million daily active users. In the span of only two years, Rad, Mateen, and Badeen, as cofounders, along with the Tinder team created, built, and led one of the fastest growing tech companies ever.
- 92. Despite this record, in late 2014, Sam Yagan, then the CEO of Match, informed Rad that Defendants no longer wanted Rad to serve as Tinder's CEO. Defendants now said that Rad lacked adequate experience to continue as CEO.
- 93. Rad agreed to serve as CEO until Defendants found a suitable replacement. For five months, IAC and Match searched unsuccessfully for a replacement CEO. All the while, Rad remained committed to supporting his employees and nurturing the company he had founded. Under Rad's leadership Tinder continued to grow. By mid-March 2015, Tinder had almost 22 million monthly active users.
- 94. During this period, Tinder also developed and launched incredibly successful revenue features. For example, Rad and Badeen developed a paid subscription option to allow unlimited swiping. This feature launched in 2015 to immediate success. It has been a mainstay of Tinder's revenue and profit strategy ever since.
- 95. In March 2015, Defendants hired former eBay executive Chris Payne to serve as Tinder's new CEO. Rad agreed to step down, take the new title of "President," remain on Tinder's Board of Directors, and focus day-to-day on product development.

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96. Payne's tenure as CEO was short-lived. His management style clashed with Tinder employees and the company struggled. In August 2015, after only five months, Defendants fired

Payne and asked Rad to resume his role as CEO.

IX. <u>In 2015, Defendants Value Tinder At \$3 Billion</u>

97. As Tinder's success continued, Rad wanted to give the company's hardworking

team an opportunity to participate in Tinder's success. The Agreements included a provision

allowing Tinder's founders to sell some of their options to outside investors in a so-called

secondary sale. Rad did not want to take advantage of that opportunity unless it was extended to

all Tinder employees. Rad asked Defendants to permit all of Tinder's vested optionholders to

participate in a secondary sale and Defendants agreed.

98. Investors who wanted to buy Tinder stock options in a secondary sale would pay

optionholders directly to acquire their options. To set a price on those options in such a sale,

outside investors would have to determine the value they assigned to Tinder as a whole—in other

words, the value they believed Tinder would command if it were a publicly traded company—and

use that value to determine what an individual Tinder option was worth.

99. The Tinder founders solicited offers from several prominent outside investors to

purchase options from all the Tinder Plaintiffs and other optionholders. Several investors offered

to purchase options at valuations of Tinder of \$3 billion and above.

100. Defendants refused to permit a secondary sale. Instead, they offered to buy back

options directly from Tinder optionholders—but with a catch. Either Match would offer all

optionholders—including Rad and Mateen—the opportunity to sell their options at a valuation of

\$1.75 billion, or Match would offer all employees—except Rad and Mateen—the same

opportunity at a \$3 billion valuation. In other words, Defendants forced Rad and Mateen to choose

between their own interests and the interests of the Tinder team.

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101. Rad and Mateen put the Tinder team first. Defendants allowed all vested

optionholders except Rad and Mateen to exercise their options at a \$3 billion valuation.

X. <u>In 2016, Defendants Force A Lowball \$1.6 Billion Valuation</u>

102. On November 19, 2015, Match held an initial public offering ("**IPO**") for its stock.

Match raised over \$400 million that first day. On information and belief, Tinder was by far the

most important and fastest-growing company in Match's portfolio. In fact, much of the press

reported Match's IPO with a headline explaining that "Tinder's parent company" was going

public.

103. Aware of the significant role Tinder had played in Match's IPO, Tinder employees

wanted an opportunity to realize some of the value they had created. In mid-2016, Rad proposed

to Blatt that Tinder institute a Discretionary Put, allowing every optionholder the opportunity to

exercise his or her vested options. The first Scheduled Put in May 2017 was one year away, and

Rad believed that the Tinder team deserved an earlier opportunity to receive money for the value

they had created.

104. Although Blatt agreed to permit the Discretionary Put, he refused to follow the

Agreements to set the value of Tinder. Blatt would allow the Discretionary Put to go forward only

if the valuation of Tinder was determined by averaging the valuations in outside financial analyst

reports that Blatt himself selected. Those hand-picked reports did not accurately reflect the value

of the company and lacked material information about Tinder.

105. Rad told Blatt the analyst reports undervalued Tinder, but Blatt insisted on using

them. Averaging those reports, Blatt assigned Tinder the lowball valuation of approximately \$1.6

billion for the Discretionary Put—even though Defendants themselves had valued Tinder at \$3

billion one year earlier when it was much smaller and far less profitable.

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106. Because he believed that Blatt's valuation was far too low, Rad told Tinder employees that he was not exercising his own options and urged them not to exercise. Rad and other executives told Tinder employees they should wait until the May 2017 Scheduled Put, when the Agreements required an independent valuation of the company, rather than the valuation Blatt had manufactured.

## XI. <u>Defendants Hijack Tinder And The Valuation Process</u>

- 107. From the start, Defendants schemed to undermine the May 2017 Scheduled Put.
- 108. Under the Agreements, Tinder management (not IAC or Match) would control the information that would determine Tinder's valuation. This meant that, absent a management change, Tinder CEO Sean Rad would oversee the valuation.
- 109. The Agreements reflected a clear and common-sense alignment of interests between Tinder, Tinder management, and all of Tinder's employees. Under the Agreements, Tinder was the company being valued and Tinder management was responsible for providing the information that would determine Tinder's value. The valuation would decide how much compensation Tinder optionholders would earn. An accurate valuation would benefit Tinder itself, making it easier to recruit the most talented employees, generate positive media attention, and attract outside investors. Tinder as a company, its optionholders, and its employees shared the same goal in the valuation process—to ensure Tinder was valued accurately.
- 110. Defendants, in contrast, had a clear incentive to undervalue Tinder. Defendants were responsible for paying the bill when the Tinder Plaintiffs and other optionholders exercised their options. The greater the value assigned to Tinder in the valuation process, the more it would cost Defendants to compensate Tinder optionholders. But if Defendants could devalue the Tinder Plaintiffs' options and eliminate their right to participate in the future upside of the company, Defendants could save themselves billions of dollars.

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111. By the end of 2016, the decision to reinstate Rad as CEO the year before had paid

enormous dividends. Rad's second tenure as CEO was another banner period for Tinder. By the

end of 2016, Tinder increased revenues to over \$175 million, with revenues forecasted to reach

over \$350 million in 2017. Tinder's revenue and profitability by this time had grown faster than

perhaps any other tech company in history.

112. Tinder also hired several skilled and experienced executives to expand the Tinder

executive team, including seasoned executives in engineering, management, and finance roles.

One such executive, James Kim, had worked in the finance and accounting departments of several

finance and tech companies in Los Angeles. Kim joined Tinder in February 2016 as the Vice

President of Finance, a role he still holds today.

113. Although Rad was leading Tinder to record growth, Defendants decided to remove

him as CEO in order to execute their scheme to deprive the Tinder Plaintiffs of their rights. With

Rad at the helm, Tinder would use truthful and accurate information about the company's financial

prospects, and Tinder would be assigned a value consistent with its meteoric growth profile. But

if Defendants could hijack Tinder, they could execute their scheme.

114. Defendants implemented their takeover of Tinder on December 8, 2016, when they

installed Blatt—Match's Chairman and CEO—as "interim" CEO of Tinder. In furtherance of their

scheme, Defendants also inserted at least two other Match and IAC executives into Tinder's

operations: Gary Swidler and Amarnath Thombre. Swidler, Match's Chief Financial Officer,

worked from IAC's headquarters in New York. Thombre, then Match's Chief Strategy Officer,

was embedded in Tinder's finance department in Los Angeles. The reason for these management

changes was clear: to allow Defendants to control and undermine Tinder's valuation.

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115. Once installed as "interim" CEO of Tinder, Blatt displayed his infamous

management style—routinely bullying and degrading employees. Blatt had a volcanic temper,

and he created and exploited a climate of fear in which employees were afraid to tell the truth.

Blatt also banned Rad, the company's founder and leader, from Tinder's headquarters.

116. Defendants' conflict of interest was glaring. As Tinder's CEO, Blatt had a duty to

comply with the Agreements and to advance the best interests of the Tinder Plaintiffs and other

Tinder optionholders. But Blatt, loyal only to Defendants, violated that duty. On information and

belief, Blatt held significant options and/or equity in Match and/or IAC, meaning the less

Defendants had to pay the Tinder Plaintiffs and other Tinder optionholders, the more valuable

Blatt's Match and/or IAC equity would be.

XII. <u>Defendants Try To Circumvent The Agreements</u>

117. In early 2017, Blatt attempted to kill the upcoming 2017 Scheduled Put. Because

Defendants did not want an accurate valuation of Tinder, they proposed to value Tinder outside

the structure of the Agreements. Blatt suggested that they use approximately \$1.8 billion as the

valuation.

118. Defendants' proposed \$1.8 billion valuation was a sham. Two years earlier,

Defendants had agreed to value Tinder at \$3 billion, and outside investors had expressed interest

in buying Tinder options at even higher valuations. In 2015, Tinder had approximately 22 million

monthly active users and earned almost \$52 million in revenue. By 2017, Tinder had exploded

like a rocket ship. In April 2017, Tinder had more than 33 million monthly active users. And

Tinder was projecting, and would achieve, 2017 revenue of approximately \$350 million—

approximately 600% higher than its 2015 revenue. Yet Defendants pressed for a lower valuation

than it had assigned two years earlier.

119. Rad rejected Defendants' proposal and required Tinder to follow the Agreements.

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**XIII. Defendants Undermine The Valuation Process** 

120. Defendants' attempt to value Tinder outside the Agreements failed. With the 2017

Scheduled Put approaching, Defendants understood that they would now have to provide financial

information about Tinder to value the company. Defendants had two choices: they could provide

truthful information to facilitate an accurate valuation, or they could provide false and incomplete

information to undermine an accurate valuation.

121. Defendants chose the latter. From approximately April 2017 until July 2017,

Defendants knowingly and willfully created false, misleading, and incomplete information about

Tinder's financial performance and projected growth. The false financial picture manufactured by

Defendants was directly contradicted by truthful financial information and data within Defendants'

knowledge and control. But Defendants suppressed this information and threatened to fire Tinder

employees if they attempted to tell the truth or otherwise interfere with Defendants' scheme. Blatt

in particular bullied and intimidated Tinder executives and management to silence them. Blatt and

other embedded Match executives, such as Thombre, also pressured Tinder's finance team to adopt

assumptions and projections that Defendants knew to be incorrect.

122. During the valuation process, it was agreed that Tinder would be valued based on

its present and projected financial performance through 2021. To carry out their scheme,

Defendants manufactured false, misleading, and incomplete financial information about Tinder's

future revenues, expenses, and growth rate, and hid the impact of new products and features.

123. In particular, Defendants manipulated the projections of Tinder's revenue in 2018

and subsequent years by, for example, assigning only limited incremental revenue boosts to

forthcoming new products. Defendants also inflated—without any basis in reality—Tinder's

expenses in several categories, including its marketing budget.

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124. Tinder's growth rate always had been extraordinary, and the company's new products and features made certain that its historic momentum would continue and increase. But Defendants created the illusion that Tinder was headed for stagnation. They concealed material information about Tinder's new products and projected that Tinder's revenue growth rate would collapse by more than 90% over the next five years. And Defendants falsely projected that the growth rate of Tinder's profits would also plummet.

- 125. Defendants hid the impact of new products and features that Tinder knew would propel the company to even faster growth.
  - a. Tinder Gold. By the time the valuation process was underway, Tinder already knew that a new subscription product, Tinder Gold, would supercharge Tinder's earnings when it launched worldwide. But Defendants claimed that Tinder Gold was risky and understated the impact it would have on revenue. On information and belief, Defendants even delayed the design and worldwide launch of Tinder Gold so that its enormous value to Tinder would not appear in Tinder's financials until after the valuation ended—subjecting it to unusually heavy scrutiny, demanding unnecessary and excessive testing, postponing deadlines and launch goals, and making other decisions to delay the launch.
  - b. **SMS Authentication**. Tinder had developed a new feature that would allow new users to register for the app and authenticate their identity by receiving text messages (sometimes called "Short Message Service" or "SMS" messages) to their cellphones. Defendants represented that SMS authentication would have only a small effect on new registrations. But

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existing data already confirmed that SMS authentication would drive a huge increase in new registrations—potentially as high as 150%. In fact, after the valuation process began, Tinder launched SMS authentication in some markets around the world and saw twice as many new users register with SMS authentication than Defendants had projected. Tinder's paying

subscriber base already had increased a whopping 20% above Defendants'

initial, fictitious estimates.

126. In furtherance of their scheme, Defendants also concealed true financial information that directly contradicted their fabricated financial picture of Tinder. In July 2017, Tinder updated its internal projections in the ordinary course of business. The updated forecast reflected significant, documented gains in revenue and profit, boosting Tinder's projected financial performance for 2018 by a large margin. The forecast confirmed that Tinder would significantly outperform Defendants' false financial projections based on existing business trends alone. Defendants hid the updated forecast during the valuation process—going so far as to say that it did not even exist.

### XIV. Defendants Cover Up Workplace Misconduct

- 127. With Defendants in control of Tinder throughout the valuation of the company, Defendants were poised to successfully execute their scheme. But unbeknownst to most people, events that took place in December 2016 threatened to derail the scheme.
- 128. At Tinder's December 2016 holiday party in Los Angeles, Blatt, who had just taken over as Tinder's "interim" CEO, groped and sexually harassed Rosette Pambakian, Tinder's Vice President of Marketing and Communications.
- 129. In mid-2017, Rad learned about these events. Rad asked Pambakian about them, and she confirmed that Blatt had groped and sexually harassed her with colleagues present.

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130. Rad immediately reported Blatt's conduct to Match's General Counsel, Jared Sine, and demanded that Tinder commission an independent investigation.

131. Sine informed Rad that the Match Board of Directors—of which Blatt was Chairman—would run its own investigation instead. Defendants placed Sine and the head of Match's Human Resources Department, Lisa Nelson—who had worked for Blatt for more than 10 years—at the head of the "investigation." On information and belief, IAC General Counsel Gregg Winiarski also was aware of this "investigation" and included on correspondence related to it. Meanwhile, Blatt remained at the helm of Tinder as its "interim" CEO.

threatened Tinder and should be independently investigated, Rad pressed for a meeting of Tinder's Board of Directors. Defendants refused and covered up Blatt's conduct instead. Defendants even allowed Blatt to contact Pambakian and one of the eyewitnesses directly, whom Blatt then pressured to conceal his misconduct. On information and belief, Blatt also misled IAC and Match Board members about the allegations made against him. On information and belief, based on statements made by a former IAC communications executive, Match had previously concealed other sexual misconduct allegations through confidential payoffs and settlements.

133. On information and belief, Defendants covered up Blatt's misconduct in part because he was essential to the execution of Defendants' scheme to deprive the Tinder Plaintiffs of their rights as optionholders—and to save Defendants billions of dollars in the process.

#### XV. Defendants Value Tinder At \$3 Billion

134. On July 13, 2017, Defendants valued Tinder at approximately \$3 billion. That valuation was based on an average of the valuations submitted by the banks. Those valuations relied on financial information provided by Defendants. As a private company, Tinder did not itself publicly report financial information. The banks based their valuations on the financial

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information provided by Defendants during the private valuation process. The banks were entitled to rely upon the accuracy and completeness of all information Defendants submitted and to rely exclusively on that information. The banks were not tasked with the independent verification of any information provided by Defendants. The Tinder Plaintiffs understand that the banks acted professionally and diligently during the valuation process. Defendants did the opposite.

135. Defendants knew that the \$3 billion valuation was a sham based on their bogus numbers. Tinder was in the midst of explosive user and revenue growth, yet Defendants' valuation meant the company was stagnating and headed toward freefall. Defendants themselves had valued Tinder at \$3 billion two years earlier, when the company was far smaller and less profitable. As alleged below, Tinder continued its dynamic growth in 2018—further confirming, with objective precision, the illegitimacy of Defendants' financial projections and resulting \$3 billion valuation.

### **Defendants Merge Tinder To Extinguish Tinder Option Rights**

- 136. Some of the Tinder Plaintiffs who left the company before the 2017 Scheduled Put began were contractually required to exercise their options at Defendants' illegitimate \$3 billion valuation. But other Tinder Plaintiffs had the contractual right to keep their options until one of the three remaining Scheduled Puts in 2018, 2020, and 2021.
- 137. Defendants were not content only to undermine the 2017 Scheduled Put—which itself had robbed the Tinder Plaintiffs of billions of dollars by lowballing the valuation of Tinder. Defendants were determined to extinguish forever the Tinder Plaintiffs' right to participate in the future growth of the company they had built. Through a secret merger, Defendants would move to terminate the Agreements and eliminate the Tinder Plaintiffs' opportunity to exercise their options years in the future, when Tinder would be even more valuable.
- 138. Only hours after finalizing their \$3 billion valuation of Tinder, Defendants merged Tinder into Match—a clearly premeditated act. Match's Board of Directors voted unanimously to

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dissolve Tinder and transfer its assets to Match as the surviving corporation. Tinder's Board of

Directors was not aware of and did not consent to the merger. Neither Rad nor any other Tinder

Plaintiff had any prior notice that the company they had built together was about to be merged out

of existence.

139. At approximately 9:00 p.m. on July 13, 2017, Match filed a Certificate of

Ownership and Merger with the Delaware Secretary of State. On information and belief, Blatt,

Winiarski, and other IAC and Match executives were working at IAC's offices in New York when

they planned and executed the merger. The Tinder Plaintiffs and other Tinder optionholders were

not notified until the next day, July 14.

140. The dead-of-night merger was a pretext. Under the Agreements, Defendants had a

limited right to convert Tinder options into Match options, but only upon an acquisition or merger

that caused a "meaningful change" in Tinder's operating structure, assets, or integration into

Defendants' other businesses.

141. In reality, Defendants' merger of Tinder into Match was a sham. It caused no

meaningful change of any kind for Tinder's operating structure, assets, or integration into

Defendants' other businesses. Both before and after the merger, Match was Tinder's sole

stockholder and had ultimate control over the company. Tinder continued to have its own CEO,

just as it did before the merger. The Tinder business operated as it always had, with its own

operating division located in Los Angeles subject to Match oversight. The corporate functions

that Tinder performed internally still continued to be performed by Tinder employees, while the

functions that had always been outsourced to Defendants remained so. In short, Defendants'

merger of Tinder into Match had no legitimate business justification or real-world consequence.

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It simply gave Defendants a pretext to convert the Tinder Plaintiffs' options and eliminate their

contractual right to three additional Scheduled Puts.

142. As a result of the secret merger, the Tinder Plaintiffs lost their Tinder options,

which were converted without their consent into Match options based on the \$3 billion valuation

Defendants had rigged. This meant that the Tinder Plaintiffs and other Tinder optionholders

received significantly fewer Match options in the conversion than their Tinder options actually

were worth. And by forcing the Tinder Plaintiffs and other Tinder optionholders to accept Match

options, Defendants stripped away something incredibly valuable—stock options in Tinder, one

of the fastest growing standalone companies in tech history—for options in Match, a bloated

stagnant holding company weighed down by aging brands.

143. Having merged Tinder into Match and deprived the Tinder Plaintiffs of their stock

options in Tinder, Defendants then purported to terminate the Agreements—even though

Defendants had no right to do so under these circumstances—and eliminate the future Scheduled

Puts in 2018, 2020, and 2021.

144. On information and belief, Defendants never revealed to investors or to regulators

the true multibillion-dollar price tag of all Tinder options, their misconduct in rigging Tinder's

valuation, or that they faced billions of dollars in liability based on undermining Tinder's

valuation.

XVII. Defendants Reward Blatt And Fire Rad

145. Only two weeks later, on August 1, 2017, Defendants announced that Blatt would

soon leave his positions as the CEO of Match and Tinder. Blatt had been "interim" CEO of Tinder

for fewer than eight months, spending the bulk of his time executing Defendants' scheme. He had

also been credibly accused of groping and sexually harassing a subordinate. Yet Blatt received a

lucrative golden parachute from Defendants featuring a glowing farewell message from IAC's

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controlling shareholder Barry Diller, in which Diller praised Blatt's "integrity." On information

and belief, Defendants allowed Blatt to walk away with hundreds of millions of dollars, without

any disclosure to the investing public or the IAC Board of the allegations of sexual misconduct,

the ensuing cover-up, or the scheme to take billions of dollars from the Tinder Plaintiffs and other

Tinder optionholders.

146. In September 2017, Blatt asked Rad to meet in person. Blatt was irate that Rad had

reported the allegations of Blatt's sexual misconduct. Blatt threatened Rad, angrily saying, in sum

and substance, that if Rad or anyone else made public the misconduct allegations against him, Blatt

would "take [Rad] down" with him.

147. On September 14, 2017, Match's General Counsel, Sine, terminated Rad's

employment at Tinder.

XVIII. Defendants' Public Statements And Tinder's Performance Contradict

**Defendants' Private Statements** 

148. Defendants executed their dishonest scheme in private, behind closed doors and

outside the view of the public markets and regulators. At the same time, as publicly traded and

regulated companies, Defendants routinely made statements to investors, analysts, and

regulators—on earnings calls and in public filings—about Tinder and their other businesses.

Earnings calls, in particular, are a critical moment, when the public pays careful attention to every

word a company says about its growth, risks, and value. And as with any public disclosure about

financial performance, federal and state securities laws require that everything said on an earnings

call by a company and its executives must be truthful, accurate, and not misleading.

149. Because the valuation of Tinder was conducted in private, Defendants could enrich

themselves by talking out of both sides of their mouths. In secret, Defendants made false doom-

and-gloom statements to fleece the Tinder Plaintiffs out of billions of dollars. But when it came

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time to make public statements about Tinder that would impact their stock prices, Defendants told the truth—bragging to the public markets about Tinder's historic growth and profitability.

150. Since the valuation and merger, Defendants have made numerous public statements about Tinder—many during SEC-regulated earnings calls—that praise Tinder's financial performance and directly contradict their private misrepresentations during the valuation.

# 151. Tinder Gold

- a. *Private Statements*: Defendants said that Tinder Gold would have a trivial impact on Tinder's revenue model and would have no meaningful long-term impact on its revenue growth rate.
- b. Public Statements: During an August 2, 2017 earnings call, Blatt told investors that Defendants had "a great deal of confidence in" Tinder Gold, which was "really unlocking a tremendous amount of value" even during testing. Defendants said that Tinder Gold would be "one of, if not the single biggest driver of incremental monetization that [Tinder had] launched since the beginning." Within one week of Tinder Gold's U.S. launch in August 2017, Match's market capitalization increased by approximately one billion dollars, or more than 18%. In a May 9, 2018 earnings call, Defendants disclosed the truth: Tinder Gold had "led to a surge in subscriber levels" and was the "most obvious driver" for Tinder's "dramatically higher" revenue per user.

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152. SMS Authentication

a. Private Statements: Defendants dismissed the significance of SMS

authentication, arguing that it would have only limited impact on Tinder's

business.

b. Public Statements: On a May 9, 2018 earnings call, Defendants disclosed

that, within two months of launching SMS authentication, 75% of all new

Tinder registrations in North America and a similar proportion of all new

registrations globally use SMS authentication. Tinder's success with SMS

authentication was the principal data point Defendants relied on during that

call to demonstrate to analysts that Facebook's newly announced online

dating product did not represent a significant threat to Tinder.

153. Growth Rate

a. *Private Statements*: Defendants said that Tinder's best days were behind it;

Tinder's growth rate would soon stall and permanently decline. Defendants

projected that Tinder's revenue would only grow by 31% by the end of

2018, and its revenue growth rate would collapse by more than 90% over

the next five years.

b. Public Statements: During an August 2, 2017 earnings call, Blatt told

investors that Tinder would continue to be "the major driver of Match

Group revenue growth for certainly several years." Swidler told the public

that Defendants expected "revenue momentum to build throughout [2017]

as Tinder's product momentum accelerate[d]." And Blatt told investors that

Tinder would see "meaningful expansion and ... reacceleration" of its

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growth rate. More recently, on a May 9, 2018 earnings call, Defendants explained that thanks to "the long-term plan that [they had] put in place," "Tinder's margins are expanding, while at the same time Tinder is achieving tremendous growth." And Defendants crowed that Tinder is "well positioned to keep capturing more and more of [its] market over time," has "multiple revenue drivers," and remains "in the early stages [of] how sophisticated [it] can be in terms of monetization."

- 154. Defendants are now telling the truth about Tinder publicly for the same reason they lied about Tinder privately—to enrich themselves. But Defendants have never disclosed to investors or to regulators the true multibillion-dollar price tag of all Tinder options or that they faced billions of dollars in liability resulting from their scheme.
- Defendants' financial performance since July 2017 further confirms the illegitimacy of Defendants' financial projections and resulting \$3 billion valuation. During the valuation, Defendants claimed that Tinder would earn \$454 million in 2018 revenue. On August 8, 2018, during Match's latest earnings call, Defendants revealed that "Tinder is on pace to exceed \$800 million in revenue in 2018"—more than 75% higher than Defendants projected for 2018 revenue and more than 33% higher than Defendants projected even for 2021 revenue. Defendants assured investors they were "confident" that Tinder's profit margins, already "strong," will "continue to expand," making the company even more profitable. Defendants also disclosed that Tinder Gold's success had "reset" Tinder's metrics, generating "very sustained lifts" in key Tinder performance measures.
- 156. Now that they have successfully executed their scheme, Defendants freely admit that Tinder is exactly the historic company the Tinder Plaintiffs always knew it was.

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157. Defendants' path to Tinder "gold" was paved with systematic exploitation and greed. For years, Defendants cheated the Tinder Plaintiffs out of the credit and value they had earned—culminating in Defendants' scheme to deprive the Tinder Plaintiffs of their contractual rights as Tinder optionholders. The Tinder Plaintiffs seek redress for themselves and all the other Tinder employees whom Defendants manipulated and cheated.

#### **CLAIMS FOR RELIEF**

#### **COUNT I**

# BREACH OF CONTRACT (Against IAC and Match)

- 158. The Tinder Plaintiffs repeat and reallege paragraphs 1 through 157 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 159. Each of the Tinder Plaintiffs has fully performed his or her obligations under his or her Option Agreement, as applicable, except as excused or prevented by Tinder, Match, or IAC.
- 160. Pursuant to the Settlement Plan and each of the Tinder Plaintiffs' Option Agreements, each of the Tinder Plaintiffs is an express third-party beneficiary of the Settlement Plan.
- 161. Each of the Tinder Plaintiffs has fully performed his or her obligations under the Settlement Plan, except as excused or prevented by Tinder, Match, or IAC.
- 162. Each of the Tinder Plaintiffs is an intended third-party beneficiary of Rad's Funding and Governance Agreement, as the agreement's primary purpose was to effectuate and protect the integrity of the Qualifying Valuation Process set forth in the Settlement Plan, of which each of the Tinder Plaintiffs is an express third-party beneficiary.
- 163. Each of the Tinder Plaintiffs has fully performed his or her obligations under Rad's Funding and Governance Agreement, except as excused or prevented by Tinder, Match, or IAC.

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164. On information and belief, upon the July 13, 2017 merger of Tinder into Match, Match assumed all of Tinder's liabilities and obligations.

A. Information Rights

165. Defendants breached Rad's Funding and Governance Agreement by failing to

provide him with certain information to which he was entitled.

166. Pursuant to Section 4(a) of Rad's Funding and Governance Agreement, Tinder was

required to "furnish the following financial information to [Rad]: (i) as soon as practicable after

the end of each fiscal year of the Company, an unaudited balance sheet of the Company as at the

end of such fiscal year, and unaudited statements of income and cash flows of the Company for

such year, prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles consistently

applied; and (ii) as soon as practicable after the end of the first, second and third quarterly

accounting periods in each fiscal year of the Company, an unaudited balance sheet of the Company

as of the end of each such quarterly period, and unaudited statements of income and cash flows of

the Company for such period, prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting

principles consistently applied, subject to changes resulting from normal year-end audit

adjustments." Defendants breached this provision by failing to provide Rad with all such

information or preventing the provision thereof.

B. May 2017 Scheduled Put

167. By their actions in connection with the May 2017 Scheduled Put, Defendants

breached the Settlement Plan and the Tinder Plaintiffs' Option Agreements.

168. Pursuant to Section 1 of Schedule A to the Settlement Plan, in connection with the

May 2017 Scheduled Put, Tinder was required to obtain "independent" determinations of Tinder's

Public Company Trading Price. Defendants breached this provision of the Settlement Plan by

undermining the independent determination of Tinder's valuation.

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169. Pursuant to <u>Section 2 of Schedule A to the Settlement Plan</u>, in connection with the

May 2017 Scheduled Put, Tinder was obligated to provide all reasonably requested diligence

information regarding Tinder. Defendants breached this provision of the Settlement Plan by

withholding and refusing to provide reasonably requested diligence information.

170. <u>Section 2 of Schedule A to the Settlement Plan</u> also obligated Tinder to grant access

to Tinder management to discuss Tinder's business and prospects and diligence information about

Tinder. Defendants breached this provision of the Settlement Plan by limiting and interfering with

access to Tinder executives and employees.

171. Pursuant to Section 10(d)(iii) of Rad's Option Agreement, in connection with the

May 2017 Scheduled Put, Tinder was required to give Rad equal access to Tinder diligence

information and reasonable access to Tinder management. Defendants breached this provision of

Rad's Option Agreement by withholding information from Rad and interfering with Rad's ability

to speak with Tinder management.

172. Pursuant to Section 2(b) of the Settlement Plan, in connection with the May 2017

Scheduled Put, Tinder was required to "deliver to all Plan Beneficiaries eligible to participate in

the Qualifying Put" a Put Price Notice, which was supposed to contain the Put Price, supporting

calculations, and instructions for exercising vested options. Defendants breached this provision of

the Settlement Plan by depriving the Tinder Plaintiffs of this notice.

173. Pursuant to Section 2(c) of the Settlement Plan, in connection with the May 2017

Scheduled Put, Tinder optionholders were entitled to a ten business day period, called a Put

Exercise Window, in which to exercise their vested Tinder options. Defendants breached this

provision of the Settlement Plan by depriving the Tinder Plaintiffs of this window.

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C. Tinder-Match Merger

174. By their actions in connection with the July 13, 2017 merger of Tinder into Match,

Defendants breached the Settlement Plan and Rad's Funding and Governance Agreement.

175. Pursuant to Section 6 of the Settlement Plan, in connection with an "IAC

Acquisition," including any merger of Tinder "with IAC or any of its affiliates," Tinder (before

the merger) or Match (after the merger) was required to "institute a Discretionary Put with respect

to which all Plan Beneficiaries [would] be deemed Holders" and conduct that Discretionary Put

pursuant to Section 2 and Schedule A of the Settlement Plan.

176. <u>Section 6 of the Settlement Plan</u> alternatively provided that "if the IAC Acquisition

[did] not result in any meaningful change in the assets owned or controlled by [Tinder] (or its

successor) and there [was] no meaningful change in the operating structure or integration of the

business into any of IAC's other businesses, no Discretionary Put [would] be triggered and these

arrangements shall remain unchanged."

177. Defendants breached Section 6 of the Settlement Plan. The merger of Tinder into

Match did not result in any "meaningful change" in the assets owned or controlled by Tinder or

Match or in the operating structure or integration of Tinder's business into any of IAC's other

businesses. Yet Defendants failed to preserve the arrangements of the Settlement Plan following

the merger as Section 6 required.

178. Alternatively, even if the merger of Tinder into Match did result in a "meaningful

change" in Tinder's assets or operating structure or in the integration of Tinder's business into one

or more of IAC's other businesses, Defendants breached Section 6 by failing to institute or conduct

a Discretionary Put.

179. Pursuant to Section 2 of Rad's Funding and Governance Agreement, "[i]n the event

of an IAC Acquisition, the price paid to . . . the holders of Options and Shares issued upon the

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exercise thereof" was required to be determined in accordance with the Qualifying Valuation Process set forth in Schedule A to the Settlement Plan. Thus, even if Defendants were not already required to institute a Discretionary Put in connection with the merger of Tinder into Match, they were required in any event to initiate a Qualifying Valuation Process to adequately compensate

the Tinder Plaintiffs. Defendants breached this provision of Rad's Funding and Governance

Agreement by failing to institute a compliant Qualifying Valuation Process in connection with the

merger of Tinder into Match.

D. Termination of the Agreements

180. Defendants breached the Settlement Plan, the Tinder Plaintiffs' Option

Agreements, and Rad's Funding and Governance Agreement by improperly terminating them after

the merger of Tinder into Match.

181. Pursuant to Section 10 of the Settlement Plan, the Settlement Plan could only

terminate "upon the earlier to occur of (i) a Public Offering and (ii) such time as IAC, together

with its affiliates, owns less than a majority of the outstanding equity of the Company (measured

on a fully-diluted, as-converted-to-common-stock basis)." Defendants breached this provision by

terminating the Settlement Plan without a proper basis to do so.

a. At the time the Settlement Plan was terminated, a Public Offering had not

taken place. For purposes of the Settlement Plan, as set forth in Section 4,

a "Public Offering" means "a transaction or series of related transactions

resulting in the common stock of [Tinder] (or of such company resulting

from such transactions or series of transactions) being publicly traded and

registered under the Exchange Act (whether by underwritten public

offering, spin off to shareholders or similar means)." Tinder's shares have

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never been publicly traded, and the Tinder-Match merger did not result in Match's shares being publicly traded.

- b. At the time the Settlement Plan was terminated, IAC and its affiliates did not own less than a majority of the outstanding shares of Tinder. Match, an IAC affiliate, owned all of Tinder's outstanding shares at that time.
- 182. Defendants also breached each of the Tinder Plaintiffs' Option Agreements and Rad's Funding and Governance Agreement by terminating them without a proper basis to do so.

\* \* \*

183. As a result of Defendants' material breaches of the Settlement Plan, the Tinder Plaintiffs' Option Agreements, and Rad's Funding and Governance Agreement, the Tinder Plaintiffs have been damaged in an amount to be determined at trial, but not less than \$2,000,000,000.

#### **COUNT II**

# BREACH OF THE IMPLIED COVENANT OF GOOD FAITH AND FAIR DEALING (Against IAC and Match)

- 184. The Tinder Plaintiffs repeat and reallege paragraphs 1 through 183 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 185. Each of the Tinder Plaintiffs has fully performed his or her obligations under his or her Option Agreement, as applicable, except as excused or prevented by Tinder, Match, or IAC.
- 186. Pursuant to the Settlement Plan and each of the Tinder Plaintiffs' Option Agreements, each of the Tinder Plaintiffs is an express third-party beneficiary of the Settlement Plan.
- 187. Each of the Tinder Plaintiffs has fully performed his or her obligations under the Settlement Plan, except as excused or prevented by Tinder, Match, or IAC.

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188. Each of the Tinder Plaintiffs is an intended third-party beneficiary of Rad's Funding and Governance Agreement, as the agreement's primary purpose was to effectuate and protect the integrity of the Qualifying Valuation Process set forth in the Settlement Plan, of which each of the Tinder Plaintiffs is an express third-party beneficiary.

- 189. Each of the Tinder Plaintiffs has fully performed his or her obligations under Rad's Funding and Governance Agreement, except as excused or prevented by Tinder, Match, or IAC.
- 190. On information and belief, upon the July 13, 2017 merger of Tinder into Match, Match assumed all of Tinder's liabilities and obligations.
- 191. Implied in each of the Settlement Plan, the Tinder Plaintiffs' Option Agreements, and Rad's Funding and Governance Agreement is a covenant that the parties will act in good faith and deal fairly with each other, including in connection with the Qualifying Valuation Process set forth in Schedule A to the Settlement Plan.
- 192. The inclusion of an independent, good-faith Qualifying Valuation Process to fairly value Tinder options in connection with certain liquidity events was central to the bargain the parties struck and to the overarching purpose of the Agreements.
- 193. Defendants, acting in bad faith, breached the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing inherent in each of the Settlement Plan, the Tinder Plaintiffs' Option Agreements, and Rad's Funding and Governance Agreement by, among other things, undermining the Qualifying Valuation Process in 2017.
- 194. As a result of Defendants material breaches of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing, the Tinder Plaintiffs have been damaged in an amount to be determined at trial, but not less than \$2,000,000,000.

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#### **COUNT III**

# UNJUST ENRICHMENT (Against IAC and Match)

- 195. The Tinder Plaintiffs repeat and reallege paragraphs 1 through 194 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 196. In the alternative to the Tinder Plaintiffs' claims for breach of contract and breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing, Defendants were unjustly enriched at the expense of the Tinder Plaintiffs.
- 197. Defendants unjustly benefitted by undercompensating the Tinder Plaintiffs for their Tinder options intentionally and in bad faith.
- 198. Equity and good conscience require that the Tinder Plaintiffs receive restitution, as it would be unjust to allow Defendants to retain the benefit of their bad faith and manipulative conduct.
- 199. As a result of Defendants' unjust enrichment at the Tinder Plaintiffs' expense, the Tinder Plaintiffs have been damaged in an amount to be determined at trial, but not less than \$2,000,000,000.

#### **COUNT IV**

# INTERFERENCE WITH CONTRACTUAL RELATIONS (Against Match)

- 200. The Tinder Plaintiffs repeat and reallege paragraphs 1 through 199 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 201. Each of the Tinder Plaintiffs has fully performed his or her obligations under his or her Option Agreement, as applicable, except as excused or prevented by Tinder, Match, or IAC.

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202. Pursuant to the Settlement Plan and each of the Tinder Plaintiffs' Option Agreements, each of the Tinder Plaintiffs is an express third-party beneficiary of the Settlement Plan.

- 203. Each of the Tinder Plaintiffs has fully performed his or her obligations under the Settlement Plan, except as excused or prevented by Tinder, Match, or IAC.
- 204. Each of the Tinder Plaintiffs is an intended third-party beneficiary of Rad's Funding and Governance Agreement, as the agreement's primary purpose was to effectuate and protect the integrity of the Qualifying Valuation Process set forth in the Settlement Plan, of which each of the Tinder Plaintiffs is an express third-party beneficiary.
- 205. Each of the Tinder Plaintiffs has fully performed his or her obligations under Rad's Funding and Governance Agreement, except as excused or prevented by Tinder, Match, or IAC.
- 206. Although before the merger of Tinder into Match, Match was not a party to the Settlement Plan, the Tinder Plaintiffs' Option Agreements, or Rad's Funding and Governance Agreement, Match had knowledge of these agreements.
- 207. By its actions in connection with the May 2017 Scheduled Put and the merger of Tinder into Match, Match induced numerous breaches of, and undermined the Tinder Plaintiffs' rights under, the Settlement Plan, the Tinder Plaintiffs' Option Agreements, and Rad's Funding and Governance Agreement.
- 208. Match either acted with the purpose and intent to cause a breach or interfere with the Tinder Plaintiffs' contractual rights or, alternatively, Match knew that a breach or disruption in the Tinder Plaintiffs' contractual rights was certain or substantially certain to occur as a result of its actions.

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209. As a result of Match's interference with the Settlement Plan, the Tinder Plaintiffs' Option Agreements, and Rad's Funding and Governance Agreement, the Tinder Plaintiffs have been damaged in an amount to be determined at trial, but not less than \$2,000,000,000.

#### **COUNT V**

### INTERFERENCE WITH PROSPECTIVE ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE (Against IAC and Match)

- 210. The Tinder Plaintiffs repeat and reallege paragraphs 1 through 209 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- Defendants were aware that the Tinder Plaintiffs had economic relationships with 211. Tinder, from which they expected to receive future economic benefits, including in connection with their Tinder options.
- 212. By their actions in connection with the May 2017 Scheduled Put and the merger of Tinder into Match, Defendants disrupted the Tinder Plaintiffs' economic relationships with Tinder.
- 213. Defendants either acted with the purpose and intent to disrupt these relationships or, alternatively, Defendants knew that the disruption was certain or substantially certain to occur as a result of their actions.
- 214. As a result of Defendants' inference with the economic relationships between the Tinder Plaintiffs and Tinder, the Tinder Plaintiffs have been damaged in an amount to be determined at trial, but not less than \$2,000,000,000.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Tinder Plaintiffs respectfully request the following relief:

- Compensatory damages in an amount to be determined at trial, but not less than a. \$2,000,000,000;
  - Punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial; **b**.

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c. Pre-judgment and post-judgment interest; and

d. Such further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: New York, New York

August 14, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

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